



Newborn Heart Tests

About 4,800 babies are born every year in America with one of seven congenital heart defects; about 280 are sent home with undetected problems. I was proud to sponsor and help pass a bill which requires hospitals caring for newborns to administer a simple test that can help detect congenital heart disease.



Foster Care Sibling Visits

Responding to concerns raised at a recent foster care forum, I helped pass a bill requiring one visit a week between brothers and sisters who are separated and in the care of the state Department of Children and Families. For many in foster care, ongoing relationships with their brothers and sisters are a source of emotional support.



Tracking Restraints & Seclusions

We've all heard stories of kids placed in "restraints and seclusion" when they act up in school. New legislation requires school boards to track when seclusion or restraints are used, and the state must review the information and summarize it annually so we can better track these occurrences.



I was privileged to take part in the recent groundbreaking for Connecticut's new BioScience center at the UConn Health Center in Farmington. This center is an important component to jumpstart Connecticut's economy by creating construction-related jobs immediately and then generating long-term, sustainable economic growth based on bioscience research, innovation and entrepreneurship.



I had the recent pleasure of visiting and having lunch with nearly two-dozen residents at Burritt School Apartments on North Street in New Britain and talked about my family's Polish heritage as well as tackling some constituent requests.



Your State Senator Terry Gerratana

Representing the residents of
Berlin, Farmington & New Britain

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Talking about manufacturing with two workers at Peter Paul Electronics in New Britain.

Your State Senator Terry Gerratana

Resources

In addition to our work this session, last October we passed a historic, bipartisan Jobs Bill to help small businesses and workers by improving access to capital, job training and education. Below is a list of programs and contact information that could benefit you or someone you know.

If you are job hunting:

- **Connecticut Reemployment Portal** if you have recently lost a job and are looking for work: www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/CTReP
- **Job & Career ConneCTion** for details on job and training programs: www.ctjobandcareer.org

If you are a business:

- **Job Expansion Tax Credits** for small businesses: www.decd.org
- **Small Business Express Package** to get funding for your small business: www.decd.org, or contact Michelle Lugo at 860-270-8052 or michelle.lugo@ct.gov
- **STEP-Up** (Subsidized Training & Employment Programs) provides worker training subsidies for small businesses and small manufacturers: contact Rina Bakalar at the Office for Workforce Competitiveness, 860-263-6523 or rina.bakalar@ct.gov

To learn more, visit: www.senatedems.ct.gov/GrowJobs



During a tour of Peter Paul Electronics which received state loans and grants to buy new equipment, upgrade other equipment, and bring 75 new manufacturing jobs to New Britain over the next five years.



Education Reforms

Every child deserves a first-class education. That's why we worked with teachers, education advocates and Governor Malloy to pass a historic education reform plan. It provides interventions and innovative new strategies for high-need schools and support for children and families. It invests in communities and ensures high-quality teaching in the classroom. The new law provides:

- Funding for 1,000 new early childhood slots
- 20 new or expanded school-based health centers
- Kindergarten through third-grade reading programs
- Innovative approaches to teaching English Language Learners
- Increased funding for new and existing Family Resource Centers
- A fair and validated evaluation system that will help teachers improve
- Additional funding to school districts across the state

A COMMITMENT TO CREATING JOBS FOR YOU

How do you improve on one of the most successful Connecticut job-creation and economic assistance plans ever devised?

You make it available to even more businesses and employees.

This year Senate Democrats expanded the Jobs Bill that we originally approved last October. That means:

- More manufacturing jobs for small and medium size businesses that will hire, buy, train and expand in our state.
- Job training for our veterans returning from combat overseas by expanding our new state STEP-Up program for them.
- "Made in Connecticut:" Locally made products will be advertised and promoted throughout the world.
- Getting jobs back from overseas: Our "First Five" business incentive program will give preference to companies who move jobs from overseas to Connecticut.

Protecting Consumers, Fighting Price Gouging



Last year we saw some of the worst of what Mother Nature has to offer. Record-breaking snowfall and a powerful tropical storm wreaked havoc, causing downed trees, power outages and roof collapses. We came together as a state to clean up and repair homes after the storms.

In the Senate, we crafted legislation that extends protections from price-gouging to emergency lodging and weather-related services such as snow

removal, flood abatement, clean-up and repairs. The package we passed in the Senate went even further by protecting people against:

- Unnecessary collection of Social Security numbers;
- Deceptive automatic renewal language buried in the fine print of introductory offers; and,
- Telemarketers giving false or misleading identifying information.

Though not all of these bills passed in the House, they are important issues that the General Assembly should remain focused on next year.

Relief at the Pump

This session I helped pass a comprehensive plan that caps the gross receipts tax by applying it to only the first \$3 a gallon when gas is sold on the wholesale market. The plan also strengthens protections against price gouging, cracks down on oil profiteering, and requires that savings from the cap get passed along to consumers.

We can't affect the price of oil on the international exchange—but we can give our Dept. of Consumer Protection and Attorney General tools to ensure large oil wholesalers don't take advantage of rising prices to unfairly gouge consumers.

